

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00001 031208Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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R 031130Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1863

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDIST'S COMMENTS ON GRAIN HARVEST AND PURCHASES

1. A LENINGRAD PROPAGANDIST SAID IN PUBLIC PRESENTATION JANUARY 3 THAT ONE COULD FIGURE OUT FROM 180 MILLION TON AVERAGE GRAIN HARVEST FOR 9TH FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD THAT 1975 HARVEST WAS 137 MILLION TONS. ALTHOUGH VERY BAD, HE SAID, IT WAS NO CATASTROPHE. PROPAGANDIST SAID THAT "THANKS TO WISE EFFORTS OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP," USSR WOULD BUY GRAIN ABROAD. MUSING ABOUT COMMENTS OF "OUR OPPONENTS" THAT 1975 GRAIN HARVEST WAS PROOF THAT SOVIET AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM HAD FAILED, PROPAGANDIST SAID THAT THESE SAME CIRCLES PURCHASE OIL AND GAS FROM SOVIET UNION, WHICH IS THE "BREAD OF THEIR INDUSTRY."

2. PROPAGANDIST DESCRIBED AGREEMENT WITH U.S. FOR SOVIET PURCHASE OF 6 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN ANNUALLY FOR 5 YEARS, "INDEPENDENT OF HOW GOOD SOVIET HARVESTS ARE," AND NOTED THAT USSR WOULD BE BUYING GRAIN ALSO FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA. HE SAID SOVIETS WOULD PAY ABOUT \$86 PER TON AND, BY AGREEMENT WITH U.S., WOULD PAY \$16 PER TON FOR PORTION OF GRAIN TRANSPORTED IN U.S. SHIPS.

3. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION ABOUT HOW MANY TONS SOVIET UNION

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WILL PURCHASE IN 1976 AND HOW MUCH IT WILL COST, PROPAGANDIST

ANSWERED AS FOLLOWS: " IT COULD BE AROUND 15 OF 16 MILLION
TONS, WHICH WOULD COST US ABOUT 1 1/2 BILLION DOLLARS,
A LOT OF MONEY."
NEUBERT

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NNN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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